

I do not support this petition and find it to be the most ridiculous out of the five or six petitions currently calling for an end to the present 5wpm morse requirement.

The petition suggests that there's "no longer any reasonable justification for requiring an applicant to demonstrate this antiquated skill". Amateur radio may be just a hobby to many, but it is first and foremost a SERVICE that may be relied upon to carry out emergency communications when called to do so, and keeping the requirement in place assures that those aspiring to upgrade to the higher license classes will at least have had some exposure to the mode and knowledge of it's use should they need to use it in an emergency situation. Yes, there are more modern modes available to provide communication but the knowledge of sending and receiving code is yet another tool that can be relied upon should other modes not be available or practical.

The petition also suggests that Morse testing unnecessarily burdens applicants, VECs, the FCC and the Amateur Service community. I fail to see how the "amateur community" is burdened by the requirement and 5wpm obviously hasn't been a burden to thousands of applicants that have passed the requirement up to now. As for the FCC I would think that the public's interest in reliable emergency communications in ALL available modes provided by amateur radio operators would justify any burden of processing morse exam results, etc., and as far as a "burden" to the VEC's.....if these particular VEC's find it more of a burden to give a simple 5wpm code test than it is to give written tests then perhaps they need to step down since they apparently are not up to the simple task.

There are plenty of privileges available to those who just want to "play radio" and have fun but let's assure that our General and higher class licensees that may be called upon to get involved in emergency communications have all the tools and knowledge available to them, including the ability to send and receive morse code. It's really not that difficult.

Thank you very much,
Mike Lyness, AF4LQ